



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

May 10, 2017

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review, the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to remove non-native and hybridized cutthroat trout upstream of Overwhich Falls, to prevent genetic contamination of pure westslope cutthroat trout (a native species) in the West Fork Bitterroot River basin above Painted Rocks Dam in Ravalli County. Non-native trout would be removed from the stream using the piscicide (fish toxin) rotenone.

FWP will hold a public hearing in Hamilton on May 23 (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m. at the Bitterroot National Forest Headquarters (1801 North 1st Street) to discuss the proposal, answer questions, and take public comment.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices," beginning May 11).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (webpage above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail, phone or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2017.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I plan to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the public comment period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Arnold", written in a cursive style.

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr